

**Washington, DC - Congressman Wally Herger, Ranking Member of the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Health, issued the following statement today after the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reported that by 2016, the Senate Democrat health care bill would increase individual insurance premiums by as much as 13 percent, or \$2,100 a year. The CBO previously estimated that the House Republican alternative would reduce premiums in the individual health insurance market by up to 10 percent.**

“The CBO report makes it clear that the Democrats’ health care bill fails to line up with the American people’s priorities. President Obama and Congressional Democrats have stated time and again that a key goal of health care reform is to reduce costs. Rising costs are the number one obstacle to making quality health care accessible to all Americans. Why would Democrats continue to push for a government takeover of health care that would, in fact, raise premiums by \$2,100 for millions of Americans? Their plan will mean even higher costs than if Congress took no action at all. I believe that we must pursue reform that will lower health care costs for the American people without adding to our national debt. I urge the President and Senate Democrats to abandon this harmful plan and adopt the Republican solution that will lower health care costs.”